



Aruban Artist “Gyzah” presents “Mystique” at the Biblioteca Nacional

Aruba’s Biblioteca Nacional will proudly present a solo exhibition by local artist Gwendolyn Sneek, who creates under the nom de plume of “Gyzah.” Beginning on Wednesday, June 7 a collection of twenty of her newest works will be on display in the library exhibition room. This new collection will be an exploration of a new media for the artist, who is noted for her paintings on silk, which were part of the one-woman show “Enigma” a few years ago. For the past few months, Gyzah has been exploring the use of acrylics on canvas as a medium for expressing the very spiritual influences on her art.

Gwendy Sneek was born in Aruba, where the Sneek “clan” is very well known for creative expression. The majority of the family members are accomplished musicians, singers, writers, graphic designers and more. Gwendy grew up in the heady atmosphere of the creative arts as a staple in her home, and she found that the visual arts and poetry were the appropriate outlets for her creativity. Gwendy has had some experience in the performing arts as well, but painting is her forté, and aside from her previous show in Aruba, has had her works displayed twice in group collections in Rio de Janeiro. Some of her poetry will also be presented during the exhibition as she weaves it into one of her paintings.

The spiritual and mystical aspects of the varied experiences in her life have long influenced Gyzah. She grew up in not only an atmosphere of artistic expression, but of mysticism of a healthy, healing direction as opposed to the occult. Various disciplines such as working with the energy of precious stones, aromatherapy, alpha brainwave control and others has helped her develop a certain consciousness, which is expressed in her artwork and poetry. She has written a book of verses in both English and Papiamentu titled “*Enuma Elish*: “When on High . . .” after the seven tables of the Mesopotamian myth of creation, which predates the Torah, or Old Testament. The idea of being open to many concepts of spiritually, yet to appraise life and worldly experiences strongly affects both her writing and painting.

In the words of author Ken Eagle Feather of the treatise “Traveling with Power,” “Mystical experience, contrary to the occult one, relates the fullest possible experience and understanding of ourselves as part of the Divine. It dismantles fences in favor of extensive and continual growth, transcending time, and space.” Gyzah conveys this mysticism in her work, with the intention of drawing the observer into another consciousness, and sharing the spiritual experience to be had by the observance and evaluation of the mundane with a more “open mind” towards their cosmic significance.

The exposition at the Biblioteca Nacional in Oranjestad will continue through June 23. Visiting hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 AM until 7:30 PM. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the works can be viewed from 10:00 AM until 4:30 PM. Ms. Sneek spends much of her time in Brazil, and her showings in Aruba are a rare treat.